

It is a story of one of my bosses back home, a young lady, Alyssa Ferguson.

In sixth grade, Alyssa was told that she had cancer and that the cancer would likely take her young life. She was approached by the Sugar Land Make-a-Wish Foundation; but instead of wishing to meet a famous person and turning inward, Alyssa turned outward. Her wish was to have a water well built in rural Africa for people in need.

Last year, Alyssa's wish was granted; the well was dug. And this year, Alyssa's 29 rounds of chemotherapy and 30 days of radiation treatment will pay off as she goes to Africa and sips water out of her well.

I want to thank Alyssa for showing all of us that love and faith overcome all.

May God bless Alyssa Ferguson.

DHS SHUTDOWN

(Ms. MENG asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. MENG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today urge my colleagues to pass a Department of Homeland Security funding bill without political strings attached.

This funding is especially relevant to us New Yorkers who, unfortunately, understand too well the consequences of terrorism. Just yesterday, three ISIS supporters were arrested in Brooklyn for their plans to travel abroad to join the terrorist group. Without adequate Homeland Security funding, we might not have caught these terrorists.

The Department of Homeland Security not only protects our borders and airports in ways we experience daily, but also works inconspicuously to guard our community by providing grants and training for law enforcement, transportation, and even local nonprofits.

Currently, DHS is unable to allocate these hundreds of millions of dollars in grants that directly assist our communities and basic infrastructure. These address the unique planning, training, organization, and exercise needs of high-threat urban areas, like New York City.

It is reckless to use Homeland Security funding as a bargaining chip. A mere political disagreement is no excuse to risk an attack on American lives.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the House bring up H.R. 861, the clean DHS funding bill that would keep the Department open so it can carry out its mission of keeping the American people safe.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. YODER). As the Chair previously advised, that request cannot be entertained absent appropriate clearance.

NATIONAL FAIRYTALE DAY

(Mr. FARENTHOLD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Mr. Speaker, today is national fairytale day, and my office has been having some fun with it on Twitter. I got together with the staff, and we came up with some hashtag liberal fairytales: "If you like your health insurance, you can keep it." "Benghazi was caused by a YouTube video."

But the biggest one seems to be happening right now. It is a liberal fairytale that House Republicans want to shut down the Department of Homeland Security. Weeks ago, we passed a bill fully funding it. It is the Democrats in the Senate who have refused to take up that bill and debate it and vote for closure that are going to close the Department of Homeland Security.

So on national fairytale day, we have got a whopper of a fairytale from the liberals. The fact that the Republicans want to shut down DHS is nothing but a hashtag liberal fairytale.

DHS SHUTDOWN

(Mr. NORCROSS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. NORCROSS. Mr. Speaker, I am here today to have a brief conversation. I spent the last 2 hours in the Committee on Armed Services, where General Keane was talking about sending the right message to our enemies, that America has to stand together as one.

So as we talk about the threats in Armed Services, we are 48 hours from shutting down Homeland Security. Let's say that again: 48 hours from shutting down the security at our airports, at our train stations, at our ports.

This is unthinkable.

I am usually not the guy that says "the sky is falling," but unless we do this in 48 hours, we are sending a message to our enemies: it is open season in America.

We can't send that message.

Please, I am asking my colleagues here in the House and certainly on the other side of the aisle to have a full and open debate on this issue. Let's take the vote. Let's get this done. Let's pass the Homeland Security bill.

□ 1230

PENNSYLVANIA'S OIL AND NATURAL GAS PRODUCTION

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, Pennsylvania is the third-largest natural gas producer in the Nation and continues to drive record-breaking oil and natural gas production. According to new data released by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, last year shale gas production jumped 30 percent in Pennsylvania's Marcellus shale for a

total of 4 trillion cubic feet, which is roughly 16 percent of what the United States consumes on an annual basis.

Mr. Speaker, communities in Pennsylvania's Fifth Congressional District have benefited greatly from the technological and the safety advancements that make natural gas readily available, and these benefits are not just limited to shale-producing areas.

Families and businesses all across the country are seeing the rewards of shale gas energy produced by hydraulic fracturing. American households are enjoying increases in disposable incomes due to lower costs for energy and energy-intensive products. Mr. Speaker, this success has been made possible due to regulations administered at the State level, not by adding the bureaucracy of the Federal Government.

As cochair of the bipartisan Congressional Natural Gas Caucus, I will continue to explore and promote best practices so that we can highlight the safety and positive economic impacts of natural gas.

DHS SHUTDOWN

(Ms. TITUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, the day after the election, Speaker BOEHNER and Senator MCCONNELL outlined an agenda for the so-called New American Congress, pledging to focus on the people's priorities. Well, they have obviously failed to deliver on this promise, instead allowing anti-immigrant, rightwing radicals to trump the safety of American families.

Mr. Speaker, recent events around the world provide a stark reminder of the threats we face. Yet amid the rising risks of terrorist attack, Republicans are holding critical Homeland Security funding hostage in a misguided attempt to undermine and roll back key protections for immigrant families.

To quote The Washington Post:

The fervor of Republic partisanship is immune to logic beyond an insistence on victory at any cost.

In this case, the cost is some 1,500 DHS personnel in Nevada who would be furloughed or forced to work without pay and nearly \$10 million in grant funding that Nevada counts on to protect the safety of our citizens and the over 40 million visitors who come to Las Vegas every year. Only 2 days remain until DHS shuts down. I call on Republicans: Stop holding it hostage and let's get to work.

FREEDOM RIDERS

(Mr. ROTHFUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROTHFUS. Mr. Speaker, from time to time in our history, people